

## Tobacco Department.

## TOBACCO GROWERS SHOULD ORGANIZE.

An Able Address by Mr. Parker to Tobacco Growers Association.

To the Tobacco Growers of North Carolina:

At a meeting of the Executive Committee in the city of Raleigh, May 24th, the Secretary of the North Carolina Tobacco Growers Association was requested to issue an address to the tobacco growers in the bright tobacco belt, calling their attention to the Association, its scope and purposes. The necessity of an organization of the tobacco growers of the State was discussed at some of the agricultural meetings during the State Fair in Raleigh, October, 1899. From this a call was issued by Mr. J. Bryan Grimes who had been chosen President of the temporary organization, for a tobacco growers convention to meet in the city of Raleigh, December 6th, 1899, and another convention was held at Raleigh, January 17th, 1900.

This convention in January was well attended by growers, warehousemen and others interested in tobacco from this State and Virginia. At this meeting a permanent organization was effected, and the North Carolina Tobacco Growers Association sprang into existence with well defined purposes; not a rival, but an ally to the other farmers' organizations in the State.

The tobacco growers were ably represented and the personnel of the convention was strong. The grievances of the tobacco growers were set before the convention, and with singular unanimity it was agreed that they could be remedied. The consensus of opinion was: That there are no influences set in motion by man, that cannot be met and remedied by men. The present low prices of tobacco and their causes were discussed. It was shown that while the acreage had materially increased during the last decade that the consumption also of tobacco had kept pace with the increase, and in fact if such a thing were possible, that the next few years would see the consumption outstrip the increase in yield. New territory has been invaded and manufactured North Carolina bright tobacco is no longer a stranger in the Orient, nor in the islands of the Pacific ocean, while South Africa and other new territory are asking for our golden leaf. With the increased demand, and the limited area that grows bright tobacco, the growers could see no just cause for the present low prices. In fact, could see no cause at all, except such as has been brought about by the American Tobacco Company.

It is alleged that this company gets as much per pound or per 1,000, for its products now as it did ten years ago, when they paid two or three times as much for the raw material as they now pay. This has been made possible with them by organization and controlling the situation. They saw the necessity of controlling the output of manufactured tobacco, as well as the raw material. To this effect they have purchased or otherwise silenced nearly all strong competition. By this means they have taken buyers off the warehouse floors, as well as sellers of manufactured tobacco from out of the markets. In this way they have shown us the power and effectiveness of organization. They have given the growers an object lesson that they should not be slow to profit by. The interest that was evinced at the January meeting of the tobacco growers showed their zeal and determination in the matter. They have been working for the enrichment of the trusts, and to the impoverishment of their own farms and families, until they have decided to make a change—to find a remedy for the low prices or make one, as President Grimes so well said in his address before that body. Some insist that if the remedy lies in organization, we will never get it, as the organization of the farmers is an impossibility.

Old army officers laughed in scorn at the idea of Napoleon crossing the Alps with his army. Something that had never been done and was considered by them impossible. Not so with Napoleon. He said: "Impossible is a word to be found only in the dictionary of fools." He charged the mighty peaks and crags, where

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If you are sick you can make no mistake by first doctoring your kidneys. The mild and the extraordinary effect of Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases and is sold on its merits by all druggists in fifty-cent and one-dollar sizes. You may have a sample bottle by mail. Home of Swamp-Root, free, also pamphlet telling you how to find out if you have kidney or bladder trouble. Mention this paper when writing Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y.

armies and cannon had never been. Within a few days the "impossible" had been accomplished and he and his army of sixty thousand had crossed the Alps and were marching through the plains of Italy. The possibilities of determined men have never been measured. The organization of the farmers—the tobacco growers, is a possibility born of necessity. Have the farmers less at stake, less to accomplish than other classes? The verdict of the public is that no class can be benefited more than they, by discreet, compact organization. The motives that impel them, the necessity that drives them, are factors that will give them strength. The American Tobacco Company is organized for the added accumulation of wealth. The farmers need to organize for self preservation. Which shall outweigh, the love of the dollar, or a desire to perpetuate the freedom and liberties that our fathers gave us as an inheritance? Which should make the stronger appeal to man, the enriching of the few at the expense of the many or the giving to our families the comforts of home, educational and other advantages that rightfully belong to them. Shall the love of money make a stronger appeal to the trust than the love of home and all that the name carries with it does to us? As men we should spurn the thought. We can master the situation. We can cross the "Alps." It is not impossible. Nothing that is possible, is impossible to determined men. We do not lack the strength, but the will; for we are as strong as we are determined. The impossible belong to the weak and vacillating.

By organization, such as the Tobacco Growers Association is working for, the tobacco growers can maintain their position, their self respect, their manhood. Without it, in a few years with present tendencies, they will have lost much that our forefathers held dear—independence. The picture is not bright, to be sure, but it would be folly for us to spread a veil over its hideousness thereby hiding the truth and deceiving ourselves.

The Association asks the support of the tobacco growers in the bright tobacco belt. It wants your support. Can it have it? The strongest appeal that I could possibly make to you would pale beside the appeal that comes to you from your own home, from those who are dependent on you for the comforts and advantages that an industrious life in a civilized country entitles them to. Neither would it strike you with the force that your disappointed hopes do, when on the warehouse floor your tobacco is knocked off to the only bidder for that grade of tobacco, at a price that barely covers the cost of cultivation and often fails to do that well. You are asked to give your influence to the Association and help restore the tobacco growers to the same prosperous condition that they occupied ten years ago when they were reckoned among the most fortunate farmers in the State. Will not this appeal from the farmers, for the restoration of the prosperity that marked the tobacco grower find a responsive chord in your heart? To say that nothing can be accomplished is to surrender without effort, an unconditional surrender.

The "plan" is to organize every township and county in the bright

tobacco district, and to get every tobacco grower in the territory an active enthusiastic member. In territory that has been partially organized we ask that thorough organization be pushed to completion. In counties where there has been no organization, we ask that the tobacco growers call a convention and organize under the plan adopted by the State Association. Put organizers in the field and cease not until every township is thoroughly organized. Is the task stupendous? Not as large as some may think, for there will be willing helpers to encourage the organizers. But there must be leaders in this, as in all successful movements. Now is the time to do effective work. As soon as an organization is effected, notify the State Secretary, giving names and post-office addresses of the President and Secretary. It has been said that tobacco can go lower, which is true and may be verified unless the growers say: It shall not go lower. In their determination lies the secret of their success. The reports coming into this office show that there has been a decrease in the acreage of tobacco planted this year of not less than 25 per cent. possibly more. That should mean better prices for the crop. Will you help to make it bring the increased price that a short crop should bring? Organize, cooperate. Success depends on these coupled with determination.

T. B. PARKER, Secretary N. C. Tobacco Growers' Association.

## PLAN OF ORGANIZATION OF NORTH CAROLINA TOBACCO GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

The association shall consist of a township, county and State organization.

The township organization shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and executive committee of three. All white persons interested in the growth of tobacco are eligible to membership. The county organization shall consist of delegates from the township conventions, one delegate for each ten members or fractional part thereof.

The officers of the county convention shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer and executive committee of five members. Each county shall have power to appoint organizers in its own territory.

The State convention shall consist of delegates from the county association, together with the officers elected by this convention. Each county shall be entitled to five votes at the State convention.

All officers in all these associations shall be elected for a term of one year. The township association shall have power to assess each member dues of 25 cents per year, ten cents of which shall go to the county meeting and ten cents to the State Treasurer. The State association shall have power to elect an organizer to organize in any part of the State.

T. B. PARKER, Secretary North Carolina Tobacco Growers' Association.

## TOBACCO NOTES.

According to State Agricultural Department figures, the acreage of tobacco in this State is 12 per cent. less than last year—half of the decrease hoped for by the Tobacco Association.

The Newbern Journal says the acreage in Craven and adjoining counties is only 10 to 15 per cent. and conditions very favorable. "The injury from worms is almost nothing, farmers declaring it to be unprecedented. Many are topping their tobacco and will begin curing early in July. Prospects were never brighter for a good crop, both in quantity and quality. Bright or lemon colored wrappers will be the bulk of the crop raised, the kind which brings the highest prices and are always in demand."

Col. J. B. Killebrew says of the Tennessee tobacco crop: "The outlook for the crop of heavy shipping tobacco is fairly promising. While

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the crop will probably not be as large in the heavy shipping districts as last year, it will probably be of a better quality. As to yellow tobacco in East Tennessee, I regret to report that the tobacco trust has well nigh brought about a total abandonment of tobacco culture in that district as a money crop. Around Greenville, where so much fine tobacco was grown a few years ago, there are scarcely any large crops planted. Trusts cannot corral the heavy tobacco, because the demand for that comes from every country in Europe, from Asia, from Gambia, and the Guinea coast of Africa, and from many of the islands of the Pacific ocean. The types suited for American consumption are in the hands of the trust, but growers of the heavy tobacco get about the same prices from year to year, which range from 4 to 8 cents per pound."

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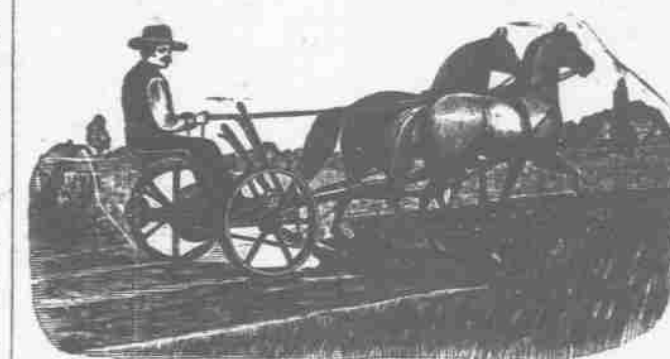
PRISCILLA HUNTER, Administratrix.

PEEL & MAYNARD, Attorneys, Raleigh, N. C., June 25, 1900.

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To the person sending in the second largest number of orders will be given FREE one Hillsboro Sewing Machine.

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